



Performance Monitoring Report: Collaborations with Schools and Colleges

January 18, 2022

Collaborations with Schools and Colleges Purpose

Collaborate with secondary schools, colleges, and universities to enable students' smooth passage between educational systems.

Collaborations with Schools and Colleges

Report Details

Overview

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) actively partners with K-12 districts and four-year colleges to ensure students have seamless pathways into technical college education and beyond. Students and parents recognize that obtaining college credits while in high school translates directly to time and money savings. Likewise, transfer agreements between FVTC and four-year institutions also result in savings for our graduates as they continue their educational journeys. The key objective of any collaboration is to help students smoothly transition between educational systems and eventually into the workforce.

What We Do

Initiatives with Area Schools

FVTC collaborates with K-12 districts to assist students with high school completion, career exploration, and college credit transfer opportunities.

The College participates in many activities to promote and encourage technical education. Hands-on events are held for middle and high school students that give them an experiential view of technical education and the employment opportunities available. Extensive partnerships for Dual Credit coursework have been developed with K-12 partners and include over 20 Summer Summit training events for high school faculty each year. Additionally, summer camps offer opportunities for middle and high school students to explore career pathways. Relationships with area school districts are developed and nurtured through collaborative meetings, professional growth activities, visits, and curricular support of career and technical education initiatives. Several area school districts participated in teacher professional development opportunities at FVTC.



Middle School Students

Academic and Career Planning was not a primary focus for most middle schools in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Middle school engagement efforts included the creation and adaptation of a virtual career planning tool kit for school districts and families to use wherever learning was occurring. In addition, FVTC interactive augmented reality career exploration booklets were distributed to several hundred districts and community organizations who expressed interest.

Two virtual events were hosted with both Kimberly and Menasha 8th graders and reached a total of approximately 800 students. All other engagement activities were self-guided for schools and families. We did our best to support school districts and stay visible.





Secondary School Students

Dual enrollment offerings for secondary school students include Dual Credit, Start College Now (formerly Youth and Course Options), and Advanced Standing:

- **Dual Credit** – allows high school students the opportunity to take an associate degree or technical diploma course at the high school while receiving credit at the high school and at FVTC.
- **Start College Now** – allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to take college courses, either on campus or online, while still enrolled in high school.
- **Advanced Standing** – allows high school students to get credit for a course completed at the high school that has comparable curriculum to a FVTC course.

Collaborations with Other Colleges

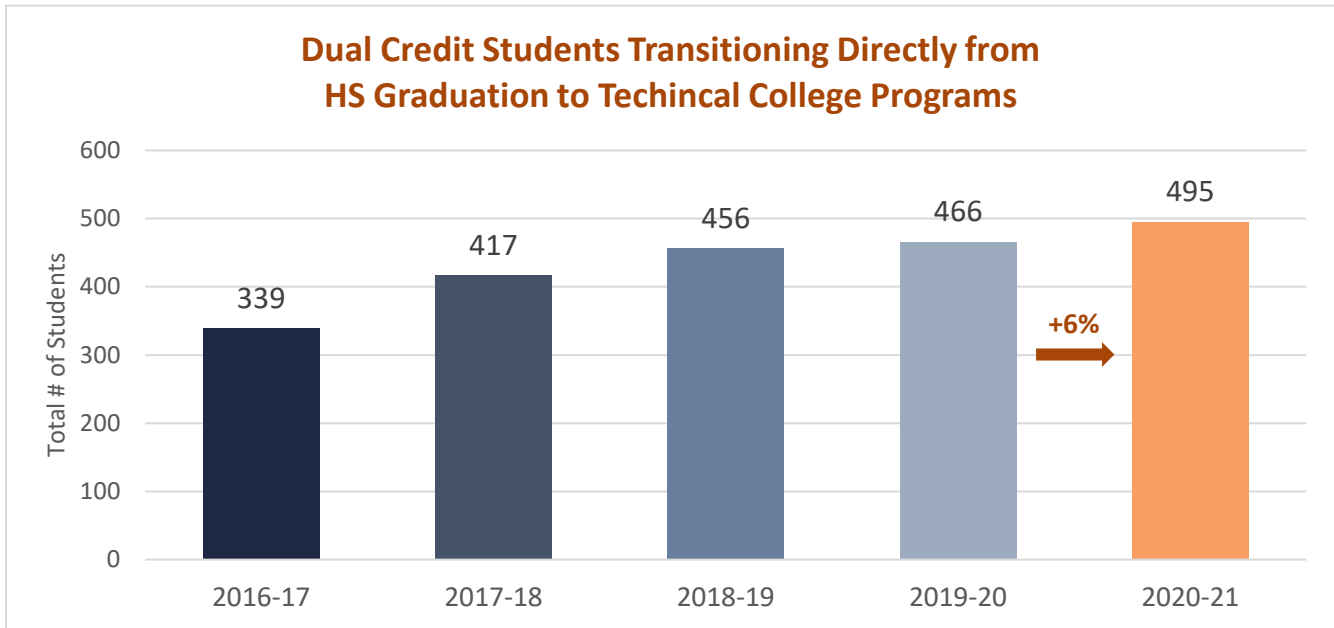
FVTC enters into formal agreements with four-year colleges for credit transfer to ensure that students can apply credits earned at FVTC without having to repeat coursework. The various methods for institutions of higher education to work together with FVTC include:

- **Collaborative Programming:** Fox Valley Technical College has five shared programs with Lakeshore Technical College, and Northcentral Technical College shares two programs with FVTC. These shared programs make it possible for local students to earn a degree without having to travel outside of the Fox Cities.
- **Bachelor of Applied Studies:** UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh offer a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree designed for WTCS associate degree graduates.
- **2+2 Credit Transfer Agreements:** Students complete an associate's degree and enter a bachelor's degree program with junior status at many private and public colleges/universities.
- **Transfer Pathways:** These could be courses offered at FVTC within a specific associate degree, course and credit equivalencies in a specific college's baccalaureate degree, and courses remaining to complete the four-year degree.
- **1+3 General Studies Transfer Certificates:** Students complete the freshman year at FVTC by taking approximately 30 credits in general education and then transfer to UW-Green Bay or UW-Oshkosh as sophomores.
- **Associate of Arts/Associate of Science Degrees:** Pending WTCS and UW Board of Regents approval, students complete either associate degree and enter a bachelor's degree with junior status at Lakeland College.
- **Associate of Arts/Associate of Science Transfer Agreement:** Students complete an associate's degree and enter a bachelor's degree program with junior status at UW-Madison.
- **Facilities Sharing:** FVTC contracts with colleges/universities to provide classroom and office space.

For Whom

Dual Credit Offerings

In 2020-21, 1,066 students transferred directly from high school graduation to FVTC. Of those incoming students, 495 students completed some level of dual credit prior to starting at FVTC. This equated to a 6% increase in the number of high school students starting FVTC with college credits between 2019-20 and 2020-21.

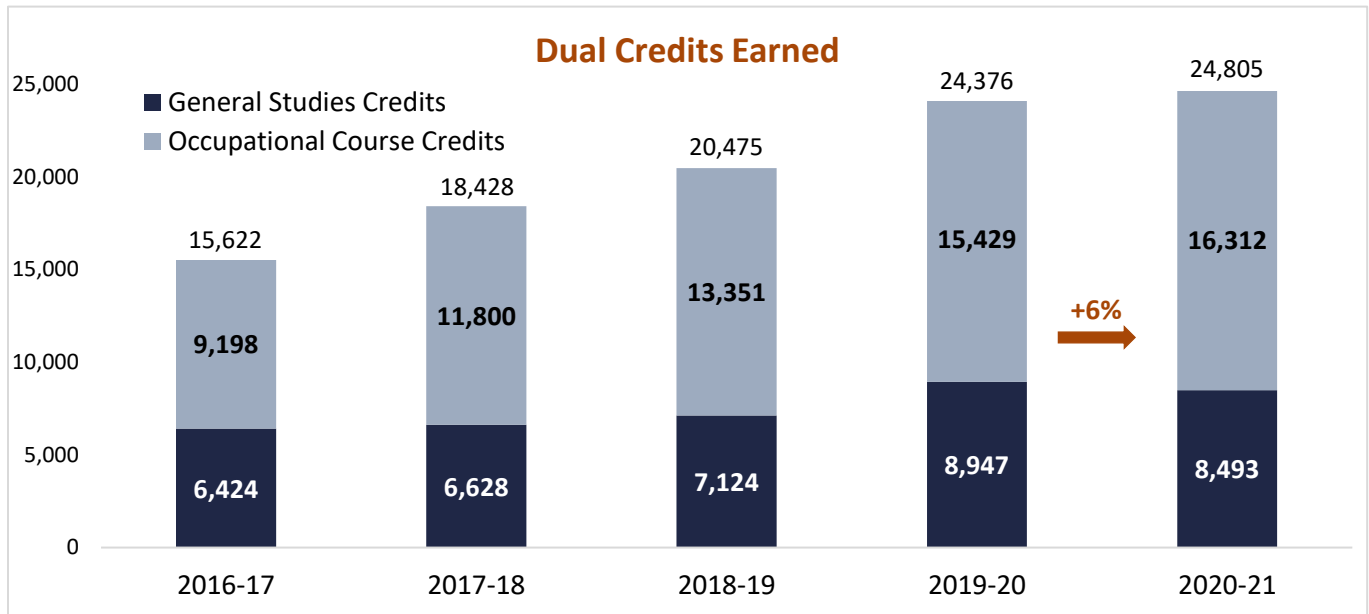


Source: WTCS Client Reporting Cube, limited to Dual Credit delivery only – excludes Start College Now and Advanced Standing

While FVTC demonstrated a positive increase in the number of students transitioning directly from high school with college credits, the college still fell short of our stretch goal for Strategic Plan measure 1.3 for the 2020-21 academic year.

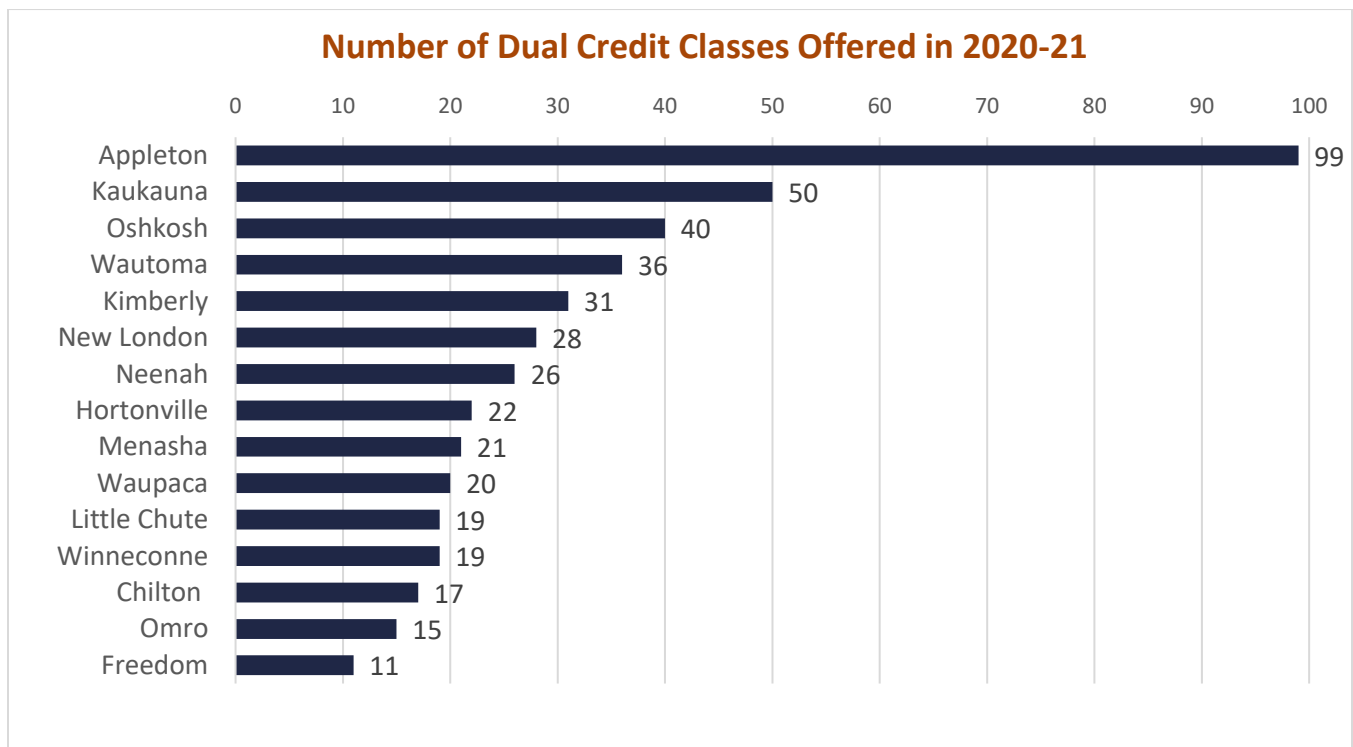
Measure	2020-21 Target	2020-21 Actual	Performance Rating
Measure 1.3 – Number dual enrollment students transitioning directly from high school graduation into technical college programs	533	495	●

In 2020-21, FVTC also increased the number of occupational courses available for dual credit. This resulted in a 6% increase in total dual credits earned in 2020-21. Further research is needed to determine if this 6% increase in total credits directly influenced the 6% increase in the number of students who started FVTC with some college credits (as shown above).



Source: WTCS Client Reporting Cube, limited to Dual Credit delivery only – excludes Start College Now and Advanced Standing

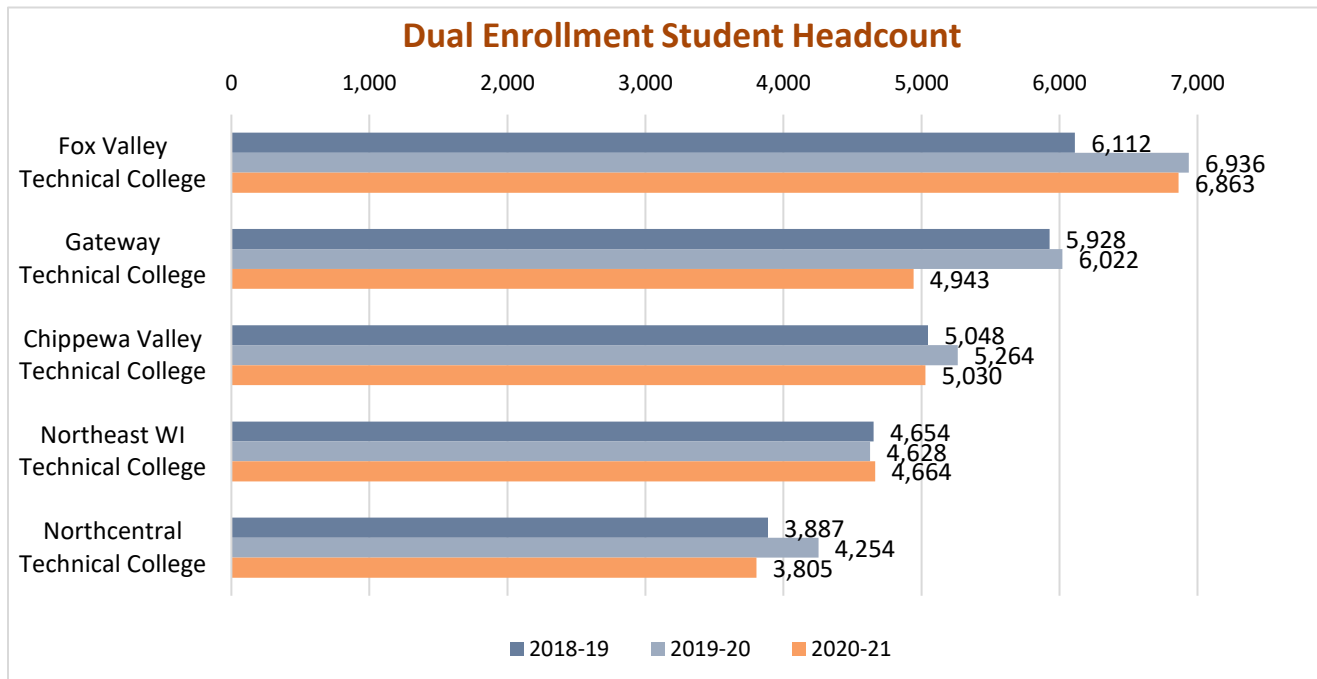
Dual Credit coursework opportunities have been developed with K-12 partners throughout the FVTC district. A total of 2,416 dual credit classes were offered in 2020-21. The below chart outlines K-12 districts that offered 10 or more dual credit classes in 2020-21:



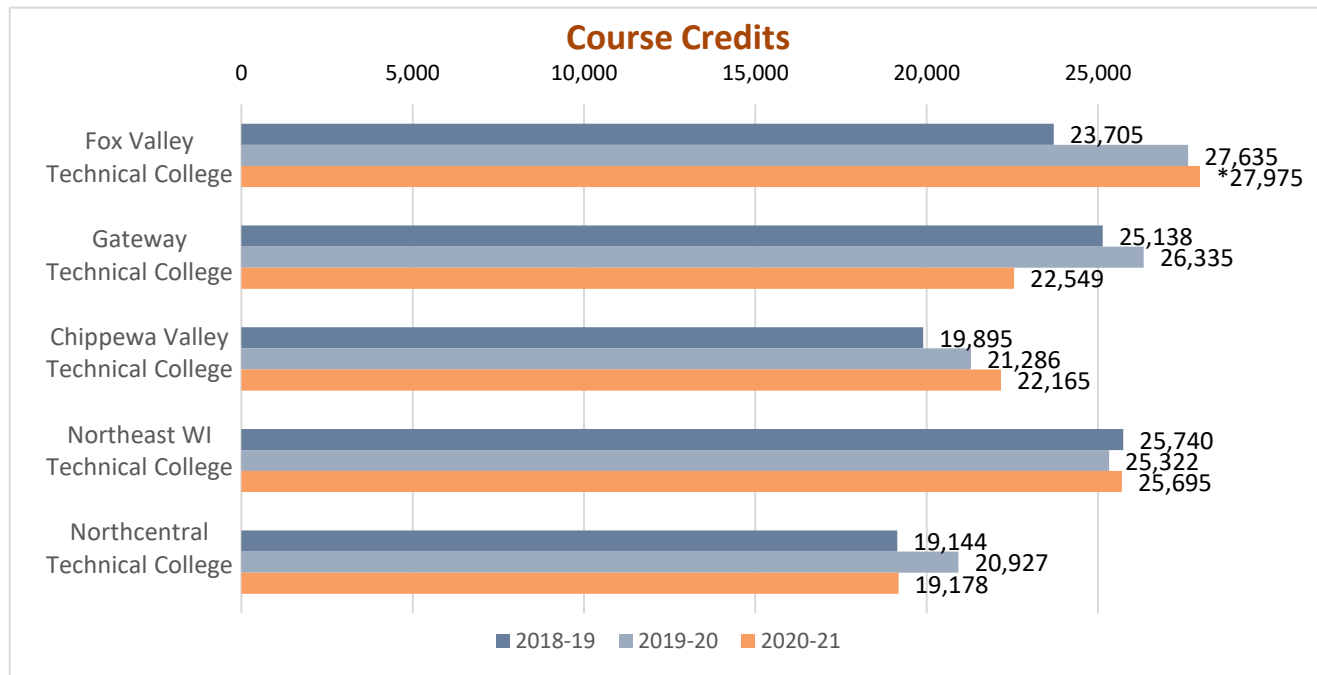
Source: FVTC Data Warehouse

Benchmarking Other WTCS Colleges

One of the ten WTCS outcomes-based funding criteria is focused on dual enrollment performance, and FVTC consistently ranks high for that measure. In 2020-21, Fox Valley Technical College had both the highest dual enrollment headcount and the greatest number of dual enrollment course credits.



Source: WTCS Client Reporting Cube, includes all types of dual enrollment (Dual Credit, Advanced Standing, Start College Now & others)



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*The dual enrollment course credit calculation for the WTCS is slightly higher than the FVTC dual credit calculation on page 4 due to the inclusion of advanced standing and Start College Now offerings.

Four-Year Colleges/Universities

FVTC has built partnerships with more than 30 different four-year schools that offer associate degree students and graduates an opportunity to transfer credits to bachelor's degree programs. These partnerships also include statewide agreements through the WTCS. FVTC develops articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities based on program accessibility to students, student interest, faculty interest, and potential for significant credit transfer. All four-year partners are regionally accredited through the Higher Learning Commission.

Four-year schools where FVTC graduates and certificate completers most commonly transfer:

4-Year Institutions	FVTC Student Transfers 2018-19 - 2020-21
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh	548
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay	236
Lakeland University	91
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	79
University of Wisconsin - Madison	75
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point	66
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse	48
University of Wisconsin - Stout	47
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire	45

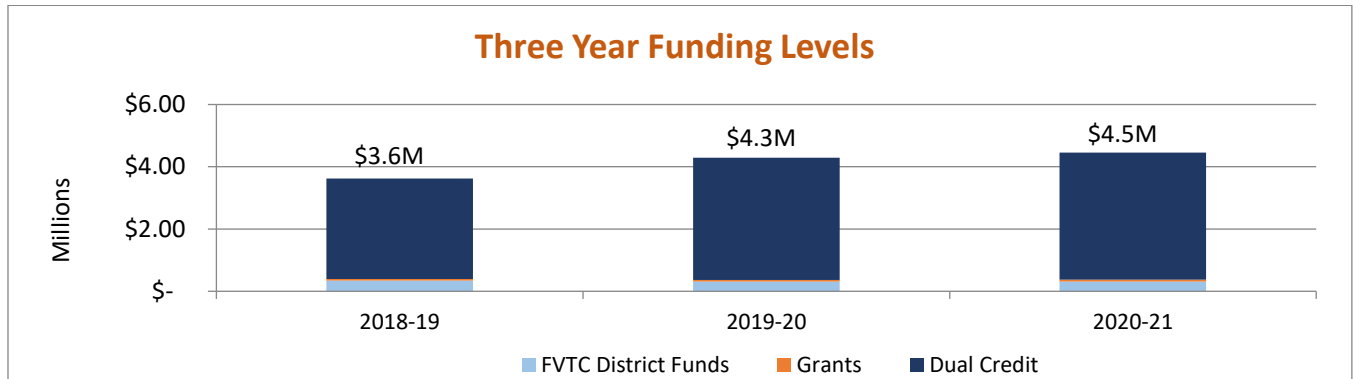
Source: National Student Clearinghouse

In addition to transferring out credits, FVTC also accepts incoming transfer credits from many two-year and four-year institutions. In 2019-20, FVTC enrolled 375 students with transfer credits from UW-Oshkosh and UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus.

At What Cost

Institutional Cost

Investment in Dual Credit programming has increased every year for the past three years. The College works with our district high schools to create cost/revenue neutral contracts in which the district funds the instruction with certified Dual Credit instructors and the College provides curriculum and oversight in an amount equal to the districts' instructional costs. As can be seen in the chart below, the College's investment in this purpose has grown in proportion to the growth in Dual Credit enrollment across our district. While these amounts do not represent an exact accounting of staffing costs, they do serve as a proxy for the level of investment that the College and our high school partners make in this purpose.



Source: FVTC Financial Services

Cost to Students and Families

The completion of dual credit courses also provided a significant cost savings to high school students and their families. On average, dual credit students earn 4 college credits while in high school. In 2020-21, the cost of FVTC tuition was \$155.90 per credit. Each high school student that completed 4 college credits through dual credit offerings would recognize a total tuition savings of \$623.60 if they enrolled in a program at FVTC. In 2020-21, dual credit students earned a total of 24,805 college credits in 2020-21, resulting in a total potential tuition savings of \$3,867,100 for students and families.

Challenges and Opportunities

As we look to the future of our collaborations with our K-12 and baccalaureate degree granting partners, the strategic challenges and opportunities include:

- **Policy and Regulatory:** *Challenge:* The College's accreditation agency (the Higher Learning Commission) is increasingly stringent with setting conditions for awarding dual credit to high school students. The increased scrutiny and compliance requirements placed on high school instructors make finding HLC qualified instructors more difficult. *Opportunity:* FVTC instructors have been increasingly called upon to provide direct instruction to high school students and there may be opportunity to increase this practice in the future.
- **Partnerships:** *Challenge:* Tight labor markets have caused a renewed increase in direct recruitment of high school students to work by our employer partners. *Opportunity:* There are opportunities for the College to partner with our K-12 partners to deliver complete workforce ready credentials and certifications to high school students so that they leave high school with a diploma and FVTC workforce credential through academies or other focused efforts.

- Promotion: *Challenge:* While the number of dual credits earned in high school leads the WTCS, student transitions still significantly lag desired levels. These lost opportunities for students and families cost them time and speed to the employment market. *Opportunity:* Reinvigorate efforts to change parent and student perception of value through promoting both technical career pathways and soon-to-be approved associate of arts and science pathways. Doing so will further cement FVTC as a place to begin higher education regardless of the ultimate destination.

Fox Valley Technical College continues to be a leader in this purpose in many aspects and we look forward to a discussion of the future challenges and opportunities with our Trustees, partners, and stakeholders.